

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting a media service provider based on static resource information, said method comprising:

receiving service provider information from a plurality of service providers at a service location manager, said service provider information comprising indications of initiation and termination of service sessions involving said plurality of service providers;

maintaining data at said service location manager, said data comprising identification of said plurality of service providers, static service provider information and static network information, wherein said data is based at least in part on said service provider information;

identifying a type of service that needs to be performed on an item of content requested by a client device and supplied by a content source before a service result is provided to said client device, said identifying performed at said service location manager, wherein said item of content is identified during a session with said client device, and said type of service is selected from a group of services consisting of processing said item of content and providing an analysis of said item of content;

selecting a service provider of said type of service from said [[a]] plurality of service providers based on said data maintained at said service location manager ~~static service provider information and static network information~~, said selecting performed at said service location manager, said selecting of said service provider of said type of service further based on service session information if said service session information has been received and further based on said identifying said type of service; and

providing transfer information for transferring said session to said service provider of said type of service, wherein said service provider of said type of service performs said type of service on said item of content if said type of service is needed.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An electronic device for providing content to a client device, said ~~system~~ electronic device comprising:

a memory device comprising computer executable instructions stored therein; and
a processor ~~a service location manager~~ that performs a selection of a service provider from among a plurality of service providers that is capable of performing a needed type of service on an item of content requested by a client device and supplied by a content source, said selection based on data maintained at said electronic device, said data comprising identification of said plurality of service providers, static service provider information and static network information, wherein said data is based at least in part on service provider information received from said plurality of service providers, said service provider information comprising indications of initiation and termination of service sessions involving said plurality of service providers, wherein said type of service is selected from a group of services consisting of processing said item of content and providing an analysis of said item of content, said item of content and type of service to be performed on said item of content are identified during a session with said client device, wherein said type of service is identified before a service result is provided to said client device, said processor ~~service location manager~~ further selecting said service provider of said type of service based on service session information if said service session information has been received.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory device comprising computer executable instructions stored

therein for performing a method for selecting a media service provider based on static resource information comprising:

receiving service provider information from a plurality of service providers at a service location manager, said service provider information comprising indications of initiation and termination of service sessions involving said plurality of service providers;

maintaining data at said service location manager, said data comprising identification of said plurality of service providers, static service provider information and static network information, wherein said data is based at least in part on said service provider information;

identifying a type of service that needs to be performed on an item of content requested by a client device and supplied by a content source before a service result is provided to said client device, wherein said item of content is identified during a session with said client device and said type of service is selected from a group of services consisting of processing said item of content and providing an analysis of said item of content;

selecting a service provider of said type of service from said [[a]] plurality of service providers based on said data maintained at said service location manager ~~static service provider information and static network information~~, said selecting performed at said service location manager, said selecting of said service provider of said type of service further based on service session information if said service session information has been received and further based on said identifying said type of service; and

providing transfer information for transferring said session to said service provider of said type of service, wherein said service provider of said type of service performs said type of service on said item of content if said type of service is needed.

4. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium having stored thereon computer program codes that when executed by a processor causing a computer to perform operations comprising:

receiving service provider information from a plurality of service providers at a service location manager, said service provider information comprising indications of initiation and termination of service sessions involving said plurality of service providers;

maintaining data at said service location manager, said data comprising identification of said plurality of service providers, static service provider information and static network information, wherein said data is based at least in part on said service provider information;

identifying a type of service that needs to be performed on an item of content requested by a client device and supplied by a content source before a service result is provided to said client device, wherein said item of content is identified during a session with said client device, and said type of service is selected from a group of services consisting of processing said item of content and providing an analysis of said item of content;

selecting a service provider of said type of service from said [[a]] plurality of service providers based on said data maintained at said service location manager ~~static service provider information and static network information~~, said selecting performed at said service location manager, said selecting of said service provider of said type of service further based on service

session information if said service session information has been received and further based on said identifying said type of service; and

providing transfer information for transferring said session to said service provider of said type of service, wherein said service provider of said type of service performs said type of service on said item of content if said type of service is needed.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting a media service provider for streaming media based on static resource information, said method comprising:

receiving service provider information from a plurality of service providers at a service location manager, said service provider information comprising indications of initiation and termination of service sessions involving said plurality of service providers;

maintaining data at said service location manager, said data comprising identification of said plurality of service providers, static service provider information and static network information, wherein said data is based at least in part on said service provider information;

identifying a type of service that needs to be performed on an item of streaming content requested by a client device and supplied by a content source before a service result is provided to said client device, said identifying performed at said service location manager, wherein said item of streaming content is identified during a session with said client device, and said type of service is selected from a group of services consisting of processing said item of content and providing an analysis of said item of content;

selecting a service provider of said type of service from said [[a]] plurality of service providers based on said data maintained at said service location manager ~~static service provider information and static network information,~~ said selecting performed at said service location

manager, said selecting of said service provider of said type of service further based on service session information if said service session information has been received and further based on said identifying said type of service; and

providing transfer information for transferring said session to said service provider of said type of service, wherein said service provider of said type of service performs said service on said item of streaming content if said type of service is needed.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[6]] 5 wherein said static service provider and network information comprises information concerning computational and memory resources, connectivity and expected bandwidth and latency between servers, client and content addresses, session dispatch history, network proximity and the identity of special purpose hardware.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7 wherein said special purpose hardware comprises encryption and compression hardware.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein said service session information comprises service session initiation and termination information.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9 wherein said initiation and termination information provides information regarding the computational resources used in previous sessions.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein said session dispatch history comprises information concerning content length.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein said streaming content is serviced and delivered to a client device as it is received.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein non streamed content is generated from said streaming content by said service provider.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13 wherein said streaming content is serviced by said service provider and delivered to a client device as a non streamed file.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An electronic device for providing streaming media content to a client device, said ~~system~~ electronic device comprising:
a memory device comprising computer executable instructions stored therein; and
a processor ~~a service location manager~~ that performs a selection of a service provider from among a plurality of service providers that is capable of performing a needed type of service on an item of content requested by a client device and supplied by a content source, said selection based on data maintained at said electronic device, said data comprising identification

of said plurality of service providers, static service provider information and static network information, wherein said data is based at least in part on service provider information received from said plurality of service providers, said service provider information comprising indications of initiation and termination of service sessions involving said plurality of service providers, wherein said type of service is selected from a group of services consisting of processing said item of content and providing an analysis of said item of content, said item of content and type of service to be performed on said item of content are identified during a session with said client device, wherein said type of service is identified before a service result is provided to said client device, said ~~processor service location manager~~ further selecting said service provider of said type of service based on service session information if said service session information has been received.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electronic device of Claim [[16]] 15 wherein said static service provider and network information comprises information concerning computational and memory resources, connectivity and expected bandwidth and latency between servers, client and content addresses, session dispatch history, network proximity and the identity of special purpose hardware.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electronic device of Claim 17 wherein said special purpose hardware comprises encryption and compression hardware.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electronic device of Claim 15 wherein said service session information comprises service session initiation and termination information.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electronic device of Claim 19 initiation and termination information provides information regarding the computational resources used in previous sessions.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electronic device of Claim 17 wherein said dispatch history comprises information concerning content length.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electronic device of Claim 15 wherein said streaming content is serviced and delivered to a client device as it is received.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electronic device of Claim 22 wherein non streamed content is generated from said streaming content by said service provider.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ electronic device of Claim 19 wherein said streaming content is serviced by said service provider and delivered to a client device as a non streamed file.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:
a processor;

a memory device comprising computer executable instructions stored therein for performing a method for selecting a streaming media service provider based on static resource information comprising:

receiving service provider information from a plurality of service providers at said computer system, said service provider information comprising indications of initiation and termination of service sessions involving said plurality of service providers;

maintaining data at said computer system, said data comprising identification of said plurality of service providers, static service provider information and static network information, wherein said data is based at least in part on said service provider information;

identifying a type of service that needs to be performed on an item of streaming content requested by a client device and supplied by a content source before a service result is provided to said client device, wherein said item of streaming content is identified during a session with said client device, and said type of service is selected from a group of services consisting of processing said item of content and providing an analysis of said item of content;

selecting a service provider of said type of service from said [[a]] plurality of service providers based on said data maintained at said computer system ~~static service provider information and static network information~~, said selecting performed at said computer system, said selecting of said service provider of said type of service further based on service session information if said service session information has been received and further based on said identifying said type of service; and

providing transfer information for transferring said session to said service provider of said type of service, wherein said service provider of said type of service performs said type of service on said item of streaming content if said type of service is needed.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 25 wherein said static service provider and network information is ~~accessible~~ maintained by a service location manager.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 26 wherein said static service provider and network information comprises information concerning computational and memory resources, connectivity and expected bandwidth and latency between servers, client and content addresses, session dispatch history, network proximity and the identity of special purpose hardware.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 27 wherein said special purpose hardware comprises encryption and compression hardware.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 25 wherein said service session information comprises service session initiation and termination information.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 29 wherein said initiation and termination information provides information regarding the computational resources used in previous sessions.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 27 wherein said session dispatch history comprises information concerning content length.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 29 wherein said streaming content is serviced and delivered to a client device as it is received.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 32 wherein non streamed content is generated from said streaming content by said service provider.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 29 wherein said streaming content is serviced by said service provider and delivered to a client device as a non streamed file.

35. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium having stored thereon computer program codes that when executed by a processor causing a computer to perform operations comprising:

receiving service provider information from a plurality of service providers at a service location manager, said service provider information comprising indications of initiation and termination of service sessions involving said plurality of service providers;

maintaining data at said service location manager, said data comprising identification of said plurality of service providers, static service provider information and static network information, wherein said data is based at least in part on said service provider information;

identifying a type of service that needs to be performed on an item of streaming content requested by a client device and supplied by a content source before a service result is provided to said client device, wherein said item of streaming content is identified during a session with

said client device, and said type of service is selected from a group of services consisting of processing said item of content and providing an analysis of said item of content;

selecting a service provider of said type of service from said ~~[[a]]~~ plurality of service providers based on said data maintained at said service location manager ~~static service provider information and static network information~~, said selecting performed at said service location manager, said selecting of said service provider of said type of service further based on service session information if said service session information has been received and further based on said identifying said type of service; and

providing transfer information for transferring said session to said service provider of said type of service, wherein said service provider of said type of service performs said type of service on said item of streaming content if said type of service is needed.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of Claim ~~[[36]]~~ 35 wherein said static service provider and network information comprises information concerning computational and memory resources, connectivity and expected bandwidth and latency between servers, client and content addresses, session dispatch history, network proximity and the identity of special purpose hardware.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of Claim 37 wherein said special purpose hardware comprises encryption and compression hardware.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of Claim 35 wherein said service session information comprises service session initiation and termination information.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of Claim 39 wherein said initiation and termination information provides information regarding the computational resources used in previous sessions.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of Claim 36 wherein said session dispatch history comprises information concerning content length.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of Claim 35 wherein said streaming content is serviced and delivered to a client device as it is received.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of Claim 42 wherein non streamed content is generated from said streaming content by said service provider.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of Claim 43 wherein said streaming content is serviced by said service provider and delivered to a client device as a non streamed file.